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Attorney Docket No. 300162

PARALLEL PLATE ANTENNA

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

[0001] The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government of the United States of America for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties thereon or therefor.

CROSS REFERENCE TO OTHER PATENT APPLICATIONS

[0002] None.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates generally to antennas, and more particularly to a parallel plate antenna.

(2) Description of the Prior Art

[0004] United States Patent No. 8,228,243 disclosed a parallel plate antenna designed for use in a field-deployed shielded room. Specifically, the antenna was designed to determine a radio-frequency (RF) "leakiness" of the shielded room. Such leakiness generally occurs at holes, ports, windows,

etc., that exist in the walls or roof of the room. The antenna of the cited reference is placed in a room that is to be evaluated and measures RF energy associated with test pulses directed towards the room from a location outside thereof. The parallel plate antenna is compact and effective, but can only operate over a limited bandwidth; thereby, limiting the value of the antenna beyond very specific applications.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a compact antenna having a broad operational bandwidth.

[0006] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a compact antenna that can be adapted to any center frequency of operation.

[0007] To attain the objects of the present invention, an antenna is provided which includes a base, a first support coupled to the base and extending perpendicular therefrom, and a second support coupled to the base and extending perpendicular therefrom. The first support and second support oppose one another and are spaced apart from one another.

[0008] The antenna also includes a plurality of plates spaced apart and parallel to one another. Each plate is "T-shaped" to have a trunk and a top wherein a width of the trunk is less than a width of the top. Each trunk is coupled to one of the first support and second support, and extends perpendicular thereto wherein a corresponding top of the plate is spaced from an opposing one of the first support and second support by a distance to thereby generate a gap region that serpentines between the first support and second support and around the top of each of the plates. Each of the base, first support, second support, and plates is electrically conductive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon reference to the following description of the preferred embodiments and to the drawings, wherein corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings and wherein:

[0010] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a parallel plate antenna in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] **FIG. 2** is a side view of the parallel plate antenna of the present invention; and

[0012] **FIG. 3** is a plot of reflection coefficient versus the deviation from the design frequency for a prior art parallel plate antenna and an embodiment of a parallel plate antenna in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Referring now to the drawings, simultaneous reference will be made to **FIG. 1** and **FIG. 2** where a parallel plate antenna in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is shown and is referenced by numeral **10**. In the illustrated embodiment, three parallel plates are shown. However, it is to be understood that an antenna in accordance with the present invention could be constructed with additional parallel plates without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0014] In general, various parts of antenna **10** need to be electrically conductive. Such electrical conductivity can be achieved by using solid metals for the various parts and metal-coated non-conductive substrates for the various parts without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0015] The antenna **10** includes a base **20,** a first support **30** and a spaced-apart second support **40** coupled to the base and extending perpendicularly away therefrom with a series of parallel plates **50** with each plate coupled to one of the supports **30** and **40** and extending perpendicularly away therefrom in a cantilevered fashion. The term "coupled" used herein refers to a mechanical and electrical coupling. The antenna **10** can be cast as a single structural element or assembled from individual elements without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0016] The base **20** provides mechanical support for each of the supports **30** and **40.** The base **20** also serves as an attachment point to an electrical ground plane (not shown) for the antenna **10.** Each of the supports **30** and **40** has one or more of the plates **50** coupled thereto. Each of the plates **50** is identically sized and shaped such that a description of only one plate will be provided herein.

[0017] Each plate **50** is a T-shaped plate having a trunk **52** adjoining a top **54** at an interface designated by a dashed line **56.** The width W_1 of the trunk **52** is less than the width W_2 of the top **54.** An interface **56** on the plate **50** that is nearest to the base **20** serves as an antenna feed point referenced by

numeral **58**. The location of the antenna feed point **58** is selected to provide a 50 ohm match. The configuration of an antenna feed **59** coupled to the feed point **58** can be conical (as shown), cylindrical, a plate, etc., without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0018] An outboard end **52A** of the trunk **52** is coupled to one of the supports **30** or **40**; while an outboard end **54A** of the top **54** is spaced apart from the opposing supports by a distance S. The plates **50** are arranged in an alternating fashion with respect to their respective support so that the combination of the supports **30** and **40** with the plates coupled thereto define a continuous gap region **60** that traverses a serpentine path indicated by dashed line **62** in **FIG. 2**. The serpentine path falls between the supports **30** and **40** and around each outbound end **54A** of the tops **54**.

[0019] Additional dimensions for each plate **50** include the overall length L_1 of the plate where length L_1 is measured perpendicular to width W_2 of the top **54**. The length L_2 of the top **54** is also measured perpendicular to width W_2 of the top. The length L_3 of the trunk **52** is measured perpendicular to width W_1 of the trunk.

[0020] Additional dimensions for the antenna **10** include the spacing between adjacent ones of the plates **50** which, in the illustrated embodiment, is equal to the distance S between the outboard end **54A** and the support it is spaced apart from. The overall height H of the antenna **10** is measured from the base **20** to the plate **50** furthest from the base **20**. Furthermore, in the illustrated embodiment, the width of each support **30** and **40** is equal to width W_1 of the trunk **52**.

[0021] In general, the bandwidth of the antenna comes from the ratio of the width of the plate **50** to the spacing between the plates. With the plates **50** arranged to define the above-described serpentine path, the plates act as a transmission line where the plate width-to-plate spacing ratio determines, in effect, the characteristic impedance of the transmission line. However, the wider top sections at the ends of the plates **50** provide additional capacitance so that the resulting transmission line could be thought of as a cascade of transmission lines with varying characteristic impedance.

[0022] In other words, starting at the opening between the topmost plate **50** and the support **40**, the plate is wider because of the "T" shape such that the characteristic impedance is smaller there as compared to the characteristic impedance at the

smaller plate width. As a result, the antenna **10** presents a transmission line whose characteristic impedance alternates all the way down to the feed region of the antenna.

[0023] The antenna **10** as described above can be sized and configured for an operating wavelength λ in accordance with the following dimensional constraints:

$$L_1 \approx W_2 = \frac{\lambda}{14}$$

$$L_2 \approx W_1 = \frac{\lambda}{25}$$

$$S = \frac{\lambda}{42}$$

$$H = \frac{\lambda}{12}$$

$$L_3 = \frac{\lambda}{36} \quad \textbf{(1)}$$

By adhering to the above dimensional constraints, the antenna **10** yields improved bandwidth performance as compared to a similarly dimensioned parallel plate antenna constructed in accordance with U.S. Patent No. 8,228,243.

For example, **FIG. 3** illustrates a bandwidth curve **100** associated with a parallel plate antenna constructed in accordance with the above-referenced patent to have a plate width-to-plate spacing ratio of 7.5. Bandwidth curve **102** is

associated with the above-described antenna **10** having a plate width-to-plate spacing ratio of 3 for the wider tops of the plates and having a plate width-to-plate spacing ratio of 1.2 for the narrower trunks of the plates. When viewed at the half-power (-3dB) points referenced by dashed line **104**, the antenna **10** of the present invention achieves a four times improvement in instantaneous bandwidth. This greatly improves the versatility of the antenna for a given configuration.

[0024] It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described and illustrated in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

[0025] The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of the invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description only. It is not intended to be exhaustive nor to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed; and obviously many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. Such modifications and variations that may be apparent to a person skilled in the art are intended

to be included within the scope of this invention as defined by the accompanying claims.

PARALLEL PLATE ANTENNA

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An antenna includes a base, and first and second supports coupled to the base and extending perpendicular therefrom. The first and second supports oppose one another and are spaced apart from one another. The antenna also includes a plurality of plates spaced apart and parallel to one another. Each plate is T-shaped to have a trunk and a top wherein a width of the trunk is less than a width of the top. Each trunk is coupled to one of the first support and second support, and extends perpendicular thereto wherein a corresponding top of the plate is spaced from an opposing one of the first support and second support to thereby generate a gap region that serpentines between the first support and second support and around the top of each of the plates.

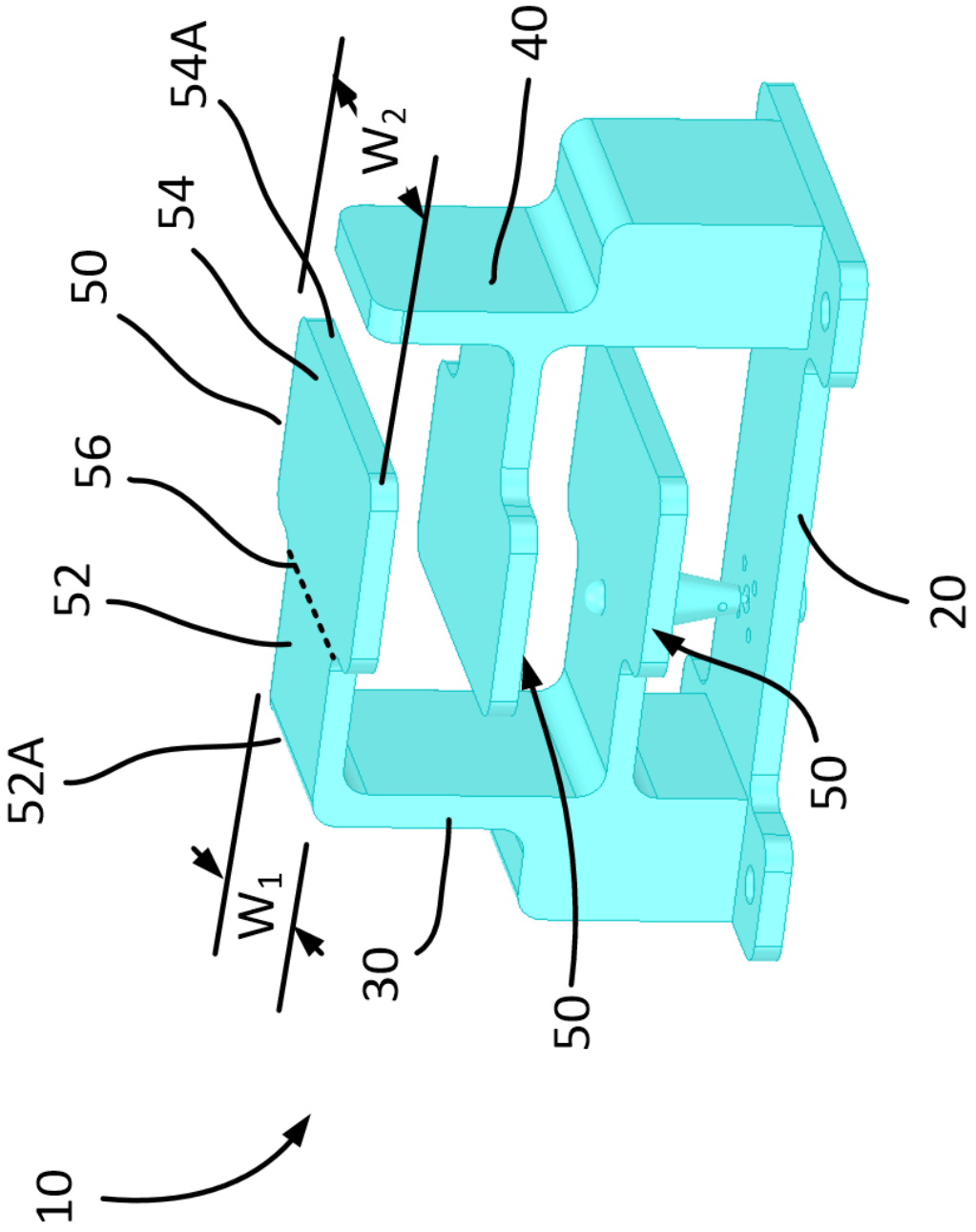

FIG. 1

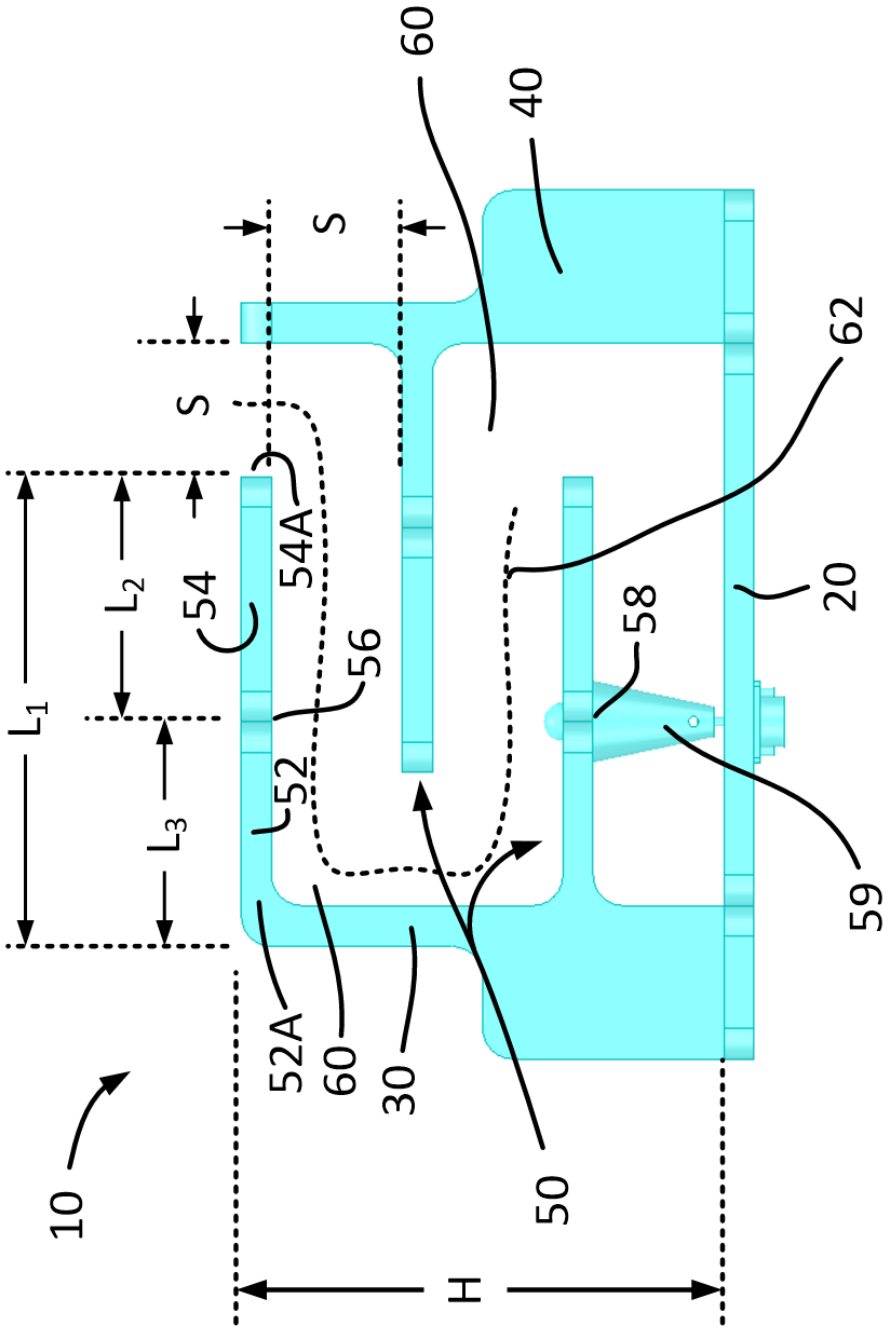

FIG. 2

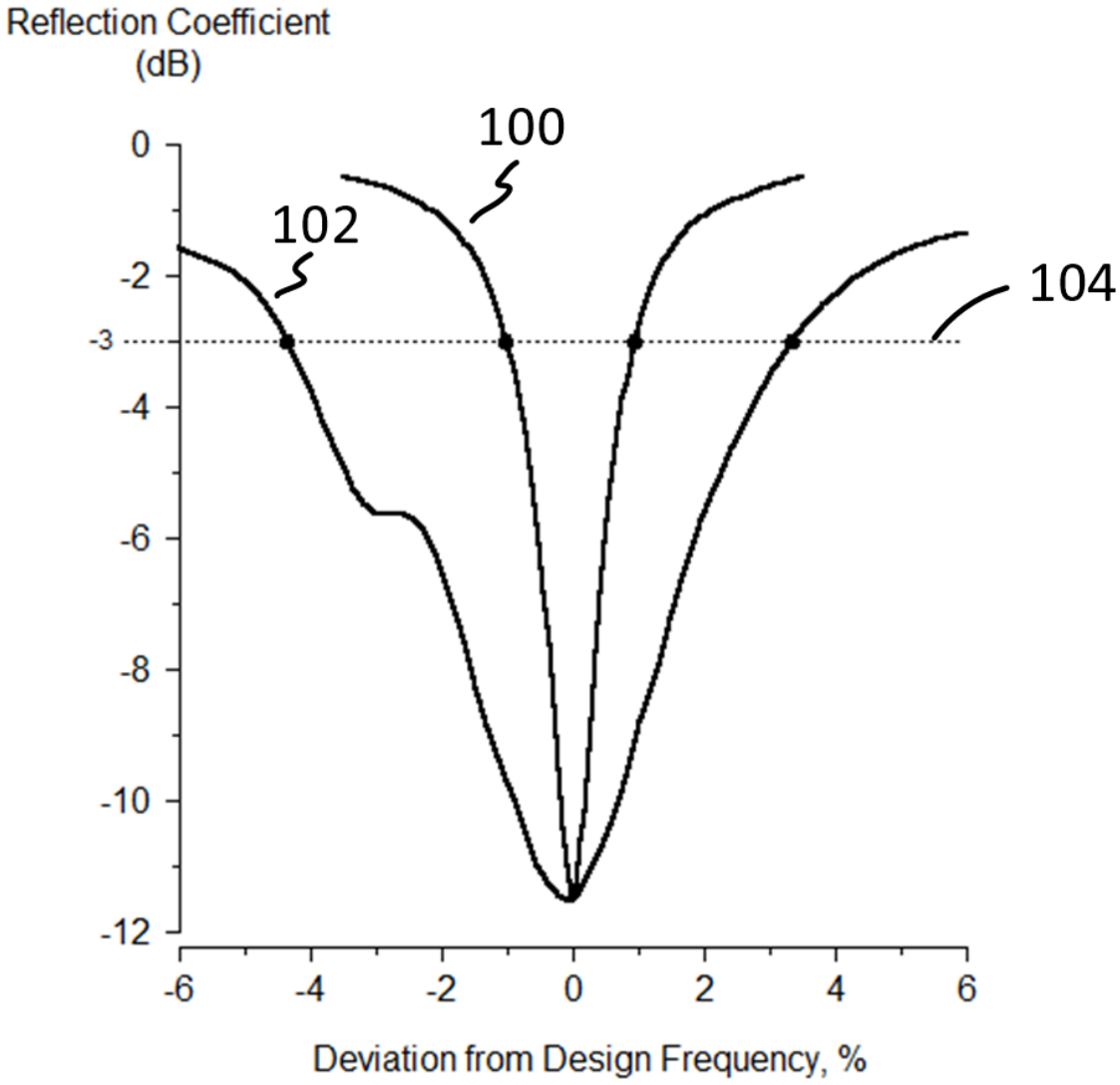
Reflection Coefficient
(dB)
0
-2
-3
-4
-6
-8
-10
-12
-6
-4
-2
0
2
4
6
Deviation from Design Frequency, %
100
102
104

FIG. 3